

GRAUSTARK

#140

1965Q, 1966R, 1966AA, 1967F, 1967U

23 September 1967

1965Q

"Spring 1918"

**SINGLE TRENCH EXTENDS
FROM CASPIAN TO RIVIERA!**

ENGLAND (Koning): A Gas-Spa; F Mid S A
Gas-Spa; A Mar S A Gas-Spa; F Ir1, F
Eng, & F Bre S F Mid; A Lon-Den; F
North Sea S A Lon-Den; A Bur S A Mar; A
Ruh & A Sil S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Mun; A
Ber S A Sil; A War & A Mos S A Ukr; F
Bal & A Ukr hold.

FRANCE (Linden): F Spa(s.c.); S TURKISH F
North Africa-Mid.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (K. Pattee): A Mun holds.

TURKEY (Knuch): A Sev-Ukr; A Arm-Sev; A
Con-Bul; A Buk-Ser; A Gal & A Tyr S A
Boh; A Boh & A Rum S A Gal; F Bla S A
Arm-Sev; A Ser-Bud; A Ven-Pie, F Tus S A
Ven-Pie; F Lyo, F Wes, & F Por S FRENCH
F Spa(s.c.); F North Africa-Mid.

Underlined moves are not possible.
The deadline for "Fall 1918" moves is
NOON, SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 1967.

Effective immediately, John Koning's
address is Apt. 1, 2008 Sherman Ave.,
Evanston, Illinois 60201. His telephone
number, with area code, is 312-491-9363.

Some question has arisen as
to what to do with this game (and with
1966R and 1967F) if no definite decision
seems forthcoming. Pending general agree-
ment among Gamesmasters and players on
this issue, GRAUSTARK will henceforth use
a modification of the 50-move rule in
Chess, following a suggestion by Bill Lin-
den. If no supply centers change hands in
three game years, the game will be declared
a draw among the surviving players.

In 1965Q, the game year "1917" has al-
ready gone by with no change in control of
supply centers. If, after the "Fall 1919"
moves, this condition still obtains, the
game will be declared a draw.

HYDERABAD, INDIA: Pandit the Bandit
today repeated his assertion that the sin-
ister international mercenary Spies Pre-
posterous is advising the Maharajah. The
Maharajah still claims that Preposterous is
really on the side of Pandit's rebels.

1966R

"Fall-winter 1914"

RUSSIA ALLIES WITH BOTH SIDES!

FRANCE (Berman): F Tun, F Lyo, F Norway, &
A Hol hold; F Spa & F Mar S F Lyo; F Wes
S F Tun; F North Africa-Mid; A St. P S
RUSSIAN A Mos; F Bar S A St.P; A Kie, A
Ruh, & A Bur S A Mun; A Mun S RUSSIAN A
Ber; F Bal S RUSSIAN A Ber; F Bot-Liv.

RUSSIA (Levinson): A Ber holds; A Mos S
TURKISH A Liv.

TURKEY (Wagner): A Gal-Ukr; A Vie-Gal; A
Sev S RUSSIAN A Mos; A Liv S RUSSIAN A
Mos; A Boh S A Sil; A Tyr-Mun; A Pie &
F Tyr S R Tus; F Tus S A Pie; F Nap & F
Ion S F Tyr; F Aeg S F Ion; A Pru & A
Sil S RUSSIAN A Ber; A War S A Liv.

Underlined moves are not possible.
The High Combatant Powers now control the
following supply centers:

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Den, Ed1, Hol, Kie, Liv,
Lon, Mak, Mun, Nor, Par, Por, St.P, Spa,
Swe, Tun. (17)

RUSSIA: Ber, Mos. (2)

TURKEY: Apk, Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Nap, Rom,
Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri, Ven, Vie, War.
(15)

France builds a fleet in Brest. The dead-
line for "Spring 1918" moves is NOON, SAT-
URDAY 7 OCTOBER 1967.

VLADIVOSTOK (17 Oct. 1914, IRE): A
report has reached here that the White Sea
Naval District has successfully destroyed
the machinery keeping open the channel to
Archangel and Murmansk. When winter blocks
Kronstadt harbor, the French will be with-
out supplies. We shall then see whether
they can be a Russian winter better
than their great-great-grandfathers.

NEW YORK (20 Oct. 1914, Dow-Jones):
Russian Government bonds, a wallpaper cer-
tificate since the French invasion, have
become highly desirable. The Russian Gov-
ernment has announced that they will be re-
deemed at par in gold at the Bank of Hong
Kong. The series of 1903, payable October
1, 1914, has already been paid off, as pro-
mised, in gold rubles.

BALKANIA IN DISHONOR AS LUCREZIA RETIRES TO MONASTERY

The German move printed as "F Norway-North Sea" in GRAVESTARK #137 was actually "F Norway-Norwegian Sea". All players were so informed.

ENGLAND (Dygart): No moves received. F Mid, F North Atlantic, & F Wal hold. F Edi delogged and annihilated.

GERMANY (Latimer): F Liv-North Atlantic; F Norwegian Sea-Edi; F North Sea S F Norwegian Sea-Edi; F Lon-Wal; F Hol-Bel; A Bel-Ruh; A Bur-Mar; A Pru-War; A Gas-Spa; A Bre, A Kie, A Nap, A Apu, & A Norway hold.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Walker): No moves received. A Rom, A Ven, F Aeg, F Gre, F Ion, A Rum, A Ser, A Bul, A Gal, & A Mun hold.

RUSSIA (Turner): F Sev-Bla.

TURKEY (E. Thompson): A Con holds; F Bla S A Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1912" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 1967. The game's only stand-by player, Tom Griffin, is alerted to eend in "Fall 1912" moves for Austria-Hungary. There is no second stand-by player in 1966AA, so the Gamesmaster would like to eull in a substitute whose playing style most closely approximates that of Jim Dygart. Accordingly, Margaret Gemignani is asked to submit "Fall 1912" moves for England.

VIENNA (17 January 1912): No official word has yet come from the Empress Lucrezia on the inactivity of Balkanian armed forces, and the following rumors are circulating in Vienna, Salona, Budapest, and other imperial cities:

1. The Annual Bordscha New Year's Eve Party is still in progress, and the government will continue as usual when it ends.
2. Princess Svetsoka, alleged eldest illegitimate daughter of the Empress, has secretly returned from Brooklyn and is about to stage a coup d'etat.
3. Angered by rumors that the Emprese plane to straighten the crose on St. Stephen's crown, Hungary is about to secede from the Balkanian Empire.
4. The Emprese Lucrezia has abdicated in favor of Kaiser Wilhelm III, and, like many kings and emperors before her, has retired to a monastery. The Monastery of the Mad Satyrical Monks (not to be confused with a Sevastopolitan order with a somewhat similar name) has been named as her new residence.
5. Dr. A. Ome Umlaut has discovered an antidote for Bordschabiazin, and the Empress and her court are in seclusion during the six weeks that the treatment will require.

SEVASTOPOL: Carl Turnoff, First Minister of Truth, Propaganda, and Censorship, today revealed to reporters what transpired at Grand Sevastopol's Diplomacy Tournament started at last winter's Fertility-Diplomacy Festival:

"The tournament was a grand success," affirmed Turnoff. "It took 50 elimination rounds to narrow the field down to the seven most deadly and ruthlessly unscrupulous blackguards. A complicated rating system was used to slowly eliminate the other players, and we would have had to play another ten games or so to complete the process of elimination had we not had some assistance." Turnoff apparently made reference to another type of "elimination" which reportedly took place with a fair degree of frequency at the festival. Perhaps Salona courtiers would be able to tell us something about such matters...

"The final game was fantastic," stated Turnoff. "For Gamesmaster, we were able to secure Professor Eric Blank, noted American moralist, the only person who could have possibly stayed afloat in that morass of depravity. And how does this sound for a line-up:

Austria-Hungary: Count Conrad von Hotsendorff-Brennan, noted pacifist and masochist.

England: Cardinal Pearicelli of the Holy Office.

France: E. V. Prosnietzscha, Head of the Sevastopolitan Secret Police and legal advi-

ser to the Tsar.

Germany: Jean Smythier, noted French refugee and pornographer.

Italy: Rozhdestvensky Walkoff, Head of the Sevastopolitan Action Guard, who unexpectedly made it into the final match with the greatest of ease.

Russia: Sir Ian Plankman, a brother in the Order of St. Peghoot, who established his notoriety by demolishing the countries played by one Clark Gansel in their every encounter.

Turkey: Ivan Besharakov, financier, who is reputed to have bought his way to victory when he wasn't stabbing his way there.

All in all, a suitably treacherous group," concluded Turnoff.

Reporters had numerous questions about this collection of ruffians, far too many to note here, but one in particular must be recorded. A reporter inquired as to why Turnoff had called M. Smythier a pornographer. Turnoff's reply: "I find the frequency with which this man wins Diplomacy games to be utterly lacking in moral taste. It is, in fact, nauseating. As chief censor of this land, it is my duty to decide what is pornography. Finding the moves written by this man to be disgusting and unfit for human consumption, I readily classify it as pornography..." Turnoff also ordered a reporter from a Brooklyn tabloid exiled to Siberia for daring to irreverently remark that the basis for this moral indignation of Turnoff's was the fact that he, Turnoff, did not win with greater frequency than M. Smythier...

One other question concerned M. J. Zelaznievski, who had been prominently mentioned as a candidate for the Interior Ministry Portfolio. Turnoff commented that Zelaznievski had not managed to get beyond the second elimination round because of his refusal to break alliances, even when he could have won by doing so. "A man of such character was obviously dangerous, so the other players quickly caught on and teamed up on him. Just as well, anyway; he would never have met the stringent moral qualifications required for the Interior Ministry." Such as willingness to engage in deceit, blackmail, murder, extortion, etc. Uh huh.

"Who won?" demanded reporters. "Sorry, boys. I can't tell you," said Turnoff. "You see, the game isn't over yet! The game has been going non-stop for six months, and not one player has yet been eliminated. In fact, to my knowledge, not one alliance has lasted for more than one game year. Furthermore, not one player has managed to get above six supply centers without having all his neighbors turn on him. As of the game year 2057, the game is a complete stalemate." Asked why so few game years had elapsed in six months' time, Turnoff remarked that negotiations tend to become lengthy when there isn't one person you can really trust. "Maybe I'll be able to report something more conclusive in another six months," concluded Turnoff. Yes, maybe a player or two will actually have been eliminated.

SEVASTOPOL: How appropriate that the remarks of Cardinal Midszektion, exiled leader of Stateless Hungarians in Trouble, should appear exclusively in GRAUSTARK.

SEVASTOPOL: It is rumored that the remarks of Cardinal Midszektion about the Tsar wearing the Crown of St. Stephen have suffered in translation from the Hungarian to the English. The translation appearing in GRAUSTARK had the Cardinal saying that it was not immediately evident that the cross on the Tsar's crown was tilted "because the Tsar and all his courtiers are also tilted." Actually, the Hungarian word rendered as "tilted" would much better be translated "crooked", or, more loosely, "twisted".

BROOKLYN: The editor of a scurrilous Brooklyn tabloid defended a translation from the Hungarian which appeared in its pages. "All of these words, 'tilted', 'crooked', 'twisted' - do they or do they not describe accurately the Sevastopolitan court?" he asked. "Furthermore," he observed, "when the Tsar puts the crown on, the cross tilts to the right. Need I say more?"

SEVASTOPOL: Cardinal Hotsendorff stomped back across the Balkanian frontier today and re-entered Grand Sevastopol. "Humph!" he muttered, "it was too late. I was received at the Empress' court and everything seemed all right, but the beautiful personage that so closely resembles Lucrezia is not Lucrezia. I can personally attest to that! Well, it was fun for awhile, but when she expected me to become a salesman for all those left-over crates of Garitol that Lucrezia's doctors vainly ordered in attempts to cure her, well, that was just too much! Imagine! Marketing that junk as 'Bourne-Vita' indeed. To think that anyone could believe that it's really Bordschabiazin!"

SEVASTOPOL: Balkanian scientists couldn't figure out the formula for Bordschabiazin if they had to. Besides, we will give them all they want. You'd think they'd be working on an antidote instead.

SEVASTOPOL: Have you noticed the hysterical tenor of the Balkanian insistence that all's normal? Hehehehehe.

BROOKLYN: That's not a hysterical tenor; it's Princess Svetscha, singing in what for her is a falsetto.

1967U

"Spring 1904"

"AVEC MOI, LE DELUGE" - NOAH OF ARC

ENGLAND (Malonsy): F Liv-Edi ((sic)); F Edi-Yor; F Lon S F Edi-Yor.

FRANCE (Gemignani): A Ruh-Bur; A Pic-Par. ((Sic; neither of these units exist.))
A Bur is not ordered, and is dislodged; F Pic is not ordered, and holds.

GERMANY (M. Miller): A Bel-Bur; A Mun & A Ruh S A Bel-Bur; F Hol-Bel; A Yor-Edi;
F North Sea C RUSSIAN A Norway-Lon.

ITALY (Clark): F Iri-Eng; A Gas-Par; F Mar-Spa; A Pie-Mar; A Ven-Tri.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Latimer): A Ser-Bud; A Vie S A Ser-Bud; A Gre-Alb; F Aeg-Gre.

RUSSIA (G. Heap): F Norwegian Sea S GERMAN A Yor-Edi; A Norway-Lon; F Ska S GERMAN F
North Sea; A Gal-Boh; A War-Gal; A Bud S TURKISH A Bul-Ser; F Rum-Sev; A Sev-
Rum.

TURKEY (Beshara): A Bul-Ser; F Con-Smy; A Smy-Ank; F Bla C RUSSIAN A Sev-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. The following retreats or removals take place:

ENGLAND: F Edi-Cly.

FRANCE: A Bur-Gas.

RUSSIA: A Bud annihilated.

The Rueso-Turkish maneuvering into, out of, and around Rumania is lawful; see the ruling in GRAUSTARK #112, p. 11. The deadline for "Fall 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 1967.

OSLO (Feb. 29, 1904): A Russian official attached to the First Muecovite Army is reported to have said, as the latest news from Rome circulated here: "who invited them to the party?"

ST. PETERSBURG (Reuters): The Czar and Czarina are reportedly eminently pleased with their new spiritual adviser, an obscure monk called Rasputin. From intimate knowledge, he has revealed that "Mary Poppins is a junkie."

DOMREMY: France is in great peril. Italians hold Paris, Germans have seized Burgundy, and even Monaco is casting acquisitive eyes on Menton, though their Prince has said, "That's not Nice!" But, in this tiny Lorraine village, France's deliverer has arisen. He is an elderly peasant, locally known as "Noah of Arc" or "Vieux Papa Pierre Dans-la-Tete". For years, mocked by his fellow-peasants, he has been building a "flying machine" in his hayloft according to voices he allegedly hears out of an empty calvados bottle. He now announces that, in the hour of France's greatest need, he will collect the entire surviving French army and their camp-followers into his invention and rescue them from the devastation of their country.

*

GRAUSTARK readers are strongly urged to read Donald Westlake's The Spy in the Ointment, one of the best of the spy-humor novels. The book sounds like a long postal Diplomacy press release, and involves such groups as the Eurasian Relief Corps, the Pan-Arabian World Freedom Society, the True Zion Rescue Mission, the National Fascist Reclamation Commission, and the Gentile Mothers for Peace as they try to murder the hero and each other.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BEAUCOUILLON - X

It was not until the Renaissance that the Grand Duchy of Beaucouillon really hit its stride. To the traditional activities of gambling, gluttony, and venoing were added the refinements of espionage, poison, and making book on wars.

For a summary description of those days we can do no better than refer to the privately published works of Henry Pike, later the Earl of Pikes. Pike, relying on notes furnished him by a confidential agent in the service of the Grand Duke Cosimo XIII, gives the following digest of a family history of Beaucouillon in the Grand Ducal library:

"Even a summary perusal of that curious volume revealed the curious bedlam of the Grand Duke's family tree. The first pages alone disgorged a half-dozen rapes, twenty-one poisonings, and thirty stabbings. I counted forty-seven cases of clap and sixteen known incestual relations in four paragraphs. I lost track of the bastards after counting up to sixty-three. Adultery was a major activity in between the masked balls and gigantic feasts. A score of murders flourished in each generation and even the warped branch of imbeciles who cropped up regularly acquitted themselves honorably in the family tradition. Rare were the deaths due simply to old age. There was a running battle through the centuries to see who could tally the most deflowered virgins to his credit. The ambitions of the females were hardly less vicious. Without exception, they had all attempted to sleep their way to the throne. A certain Mathilde, a precocious Renaissance adolescent, boasted that she had enjoyed the favors of every European monarch. She was the most traveled of the lot, and were it not for an untimely death while crossing the Black Sea in her projected assault of Asia, she might easily have added a list of Eastern crowns to her laurels. Her murder by a rival branch of the family, all bastards, touched off the cruelest of incestuous vendettas in history."

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Owing to GRAUSTARK #139, published last Monday, the list of current addresses and phone numbers of players active in GRAUSTARK games will be postponed until GRAUSTARK #141. That issue will be published two weeks from today, on Saturday 7 October 1967. Be sure that your correct address (with ZIP code) and phone number (with area code) is in the GRAUSTARK of that date.

*

This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

*

The September issue (#8) of the war gamers' journal Strategy & Tactics is devoted to Diplomacy and its variations. The cover shows Diplomatic negotiations of an imminently fatal character. Inside is a map, and articles on the game by John McCallum, Rod Walker, and John Boardman. Strategy & Tactics evaluates Diplomacy as "excellent" in diplomatic realism and complexity, commenting that it is primarily a diplomatic rather than a military game. The readership of Strategy & Tactics seems principally composed of Avalon-Hill and other games which attempt to recreate historical battles; Diplomacy should be an interesting change for most of them. And for those primarily Diplomacy fans who want to broaden out into other board games, Strategy & Tactics makes interesting reading. Single copies are 60¢, and subscriptions \$5.00 for 10 issues from Box 11-187, Loudonville, N. Y. 12211. (Prices go up next year.)

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Reviews of the new politico-military board games Nuclear War and Confrontation will appear in future issues of GRAUSTARK, thanks to their publisher, Gamescience Corporation, and Gamescience's chairman, Philip Orbanes Jr.

*

From a letter from Ted Pauls: "On the subject of hoaxes, Bob Vardeman observes: 'By golly, Eric Blake was John Boardman! Do we get to guess who John Boardman is now?' I've already informed him, of course, that John Boardman is really Marty Helgeson. Vardeman doesn't believe in Chay Borsella either, and thinks she's me. What he doesn't know, of course, is that I'm Harry Warner. Actually, there are only 162 people in the United States; all the others are hoaxes and pseudonyms. (signed) Cheers, Bob Tucker."

THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT O-O-HATE

Chapter XXXVI

"You'll never leave here alive," the Let's Tear Apart, Inc. operative said to Secret Agent O-O-Hate amid the ruins of the Trans-Pacific Napalm Works, "so we may as well tell you our plans."

O-O-Hate smiled. This was the oldest gambit in the secret agent business.

"Yes, we did sign a contract with the Russians to tear down the Berlin Wall," the little man with the pickaxe went on. "The Russians built the wall in 1961 because they wanted to stop East Germans from fleeing to West Germany. But your government has been so successful in putting the Nazis back into power in West Germany that Moscow estimates the traffic will begin to flow in the opposite direction by late 1970. They want the wall out of the way by then, so it won't get in the path of their new converts."

"But what will you do with the ruins of the wall?" O-O-Hate asked.

"We're now negotiating a deal with the Pentagon. We'll rebuild the Berlin Wall across Vietnam, so troops won't be able to get from north to south."

"But that will aid the sinister forces of World Peace," said O-O-Hate. "With a wall, neither side will be able to get at the other, and we won't be able to kill nearly as many people. Suppose you deal with my agency instead of with the Pentagon. We'll use the stones from the Berlin Wall to build a bridge from Taiwan to the mainland, thus bringing Chiang's fanatics into contact with Mao's. Then you'll really see a lovely war!"

"But can your agency outbid the Pentagon?" another little man asked doubtfully.

"Certainly! They have to account for their expenditures in a budget. We have an emergency authorization to print our own money; it was buried in a sub-clause of the Federal Agency Against Swine Erysipelas Act in 1947."

"And this will help your agency on the German end, too," one of the wreckers said. "When Führer Kiesinger starts his new blitzkrieg into Holland to suppress the Provos, he will seize the Amsterdam Diamond Exchange. This will automatically bring the United States into the war."

"A two-front war!" O-O-Hate exulted. "Is it a deal?"

"Deal!" the three members of Let's Tear Apart Inc. chorused as one man.

((Thus Secret Agent O-O-Hate converts Let's Tear Apart, Inc. into a valuable ally in the never-ending struggle against the menace of World Peace. Start off on a new adventure with him in GRAUSTARK #141.))

GRAUSTARK #140

John Boardman
592 16th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218
U. S. A.



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1867-1967



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Larry Peary
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